

Leventhal calls for new construction criteria

By SONIA BORN
Montgomery Bureau Chief
sborn@fredericknews-post.com

ROCKVILLE — Montgomery County Council President George Leventhal will introduce a bill today that would mandate energy and environmental criteria for certain new non-residential buildings and multi-family residential dwellings.

Mr. Leventhal's bill is designed to cover new buildings larger than 10,000

square feet, including buildings constructed by the county. The bill follows guidelines set forth by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for a Green Building Rating System developed by the United States Green Buildings Council.

Mr. Leventhal said his bill will also expand the Clean Energy Rewards Program to make owners of new commercial and multi-family residential buildings that obtain at least 24 LEED points eligible to receive an energy tax rebate.

He said the design system identifies criteria that positively impact the energy and environmental characteristics of a building, including sustainability of a site, water efficiency, energy efficiency, materials and resources and indoor environmental quality. The bill will require that the county's Department of Permitting Services determine whether a building complies with the new standard.

The law would make compliance with the new LEED standard a condition of preliminary subdivision plan approval,

site plan approval and building permit approval.

The Planning Board would have to include a Green Building Plan that complies with the new LEED standard as a condition of site plan approval for covered buildings.

The new LEED standard will apply to any covered building for which a preliminary subdivision plan application, site plan application or building permit application is filed on or after the bill takes effect.